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[<http://ipac.vch.ca/Documents/Acute%20Resource%20manual/Holiday%20Decorations.pdf>]

IPAC BEST PRACTICES GUIDELINE

Holiday Decorations

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PURPOSE

To provide guidance on infection prevention and control implications for holiday decorations in VCH healthcare facilities.

BACKGROUND

- Holiday decorations present a low risk for transmission, but may harbor dust and microorganisms

PROCEDURE

1. Selection

- Choose laminated/plastic/wipeable decorations whenever possible
- Confirm with Facilities Maintenance and Operations that lighted displays do not pose a fire or safety risk
- Discard/replace decorations that are damaged or worn

2. Storage & Handling

- Decorations should be stored in a lidded plastic container to minimize dust accumulation (e.g., artificial Christmas trees).
- Decorations should be wiped with a hospital-grade cleaning and disinfection wipe (e.g., Accel Intervention) to aid in dust removal prior to storage and again when displayed.
- Perform hand hygiene before and after handling decorations

3. Display

- Holiday decorations should be placed using adhesives that are easy to remove so not to leave behind difficult to clean residue (e.g., Super Command Strips, Velcro buttons, poster putty). Avoid using tape. If tape is used, confirm all residue is removed when decorations are taken down.
- Holiday decorations should not be placed in the following areas:
 - Clean and dirty service rooms
 - Medication rooms
 - Inpatient rooms*, treatment/procedure rooms
 - OR theaters
 - Sterile reprocessing areas or any area used for sterile supply storage

***Note:** Patients/families may choose to decorate their own room (e.g., cards). Advise them to minimize clutter to allow for adequate environmental cleaning and to not place decorations on window sills or table tops. Should they post decorations on the wall, request easy to clean adhesive as indicated above.